

Subscription drive goes over the top, Lincoln leads!

BY JIM CARSON

With a resounding bang! This is how the international campaign to win new and renewed *Militant* subscribers concluded Nov. 23, with a total of 2,410—well over our goal of 2,200.

Max Bontrager and Joe Swanson in Lincoln, Neb., led the way with 37 subscriptions, or 123 per cent of their goal.

This victory is confirmation of the growing interest among workers and youth in a working-class newsweekly that builds solidarity with their struggles, provides a Marxist explanation of the world capitalist crisis, and charts a course toward building a revolutionary movement to bring an end

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Fall 'Militant' subscription campaign				
FINAL RESULTS				
Country	quota	sold	%	Over the Top! 2,200
UNITED STATES				
Lincoln, Neb.*	30	37	123%	
Atlanta*	170	203	119%	
Seattle*	175	196	112%	
Des Moines*	165	178	108%	
Philadelphia	90	97	108%	
Washington	60	64	107%	
Los Angeles	150	157	105%	
Houston*	90	94	104%	
Miami	90	94	104%	
Twin Cities	140	144	103%	
Chicago*	165	169	102%	
San Francisco*	170	173	102%	
New York*	260	262	101%	
Albuquerque†	3	3	100%	
Boston*	60	60	100%	
Muscoda, Wis.†	3	3	100%	
Pittsburgh†	4	4	100%	
Cincinnati†	4	3	75%	
New Paltz, N.Y.†	15	11	73%	
Bloomington, Ind.†	5	3	60%	
Total US	1,849	1,955	106%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
Manchester	60	69	115%	
London	120	136	113%	
Total UK	180	205	114%	
CANADA*	85	96	113%	
NEW ZEALAND	80	84	105%	
AUSTRALIA	65	70	108%	
Total	2,259	2,410	110%	
Should be	2,200	2,200	100%	
* Raised goal † First time on scoreboard				

Egypt protests condemn continued military rule

Workers, youth grapple with road forward



Protest in Cairo's Tahrir Square against military rule Nov. 29. Seeking electoral gains, Muslim Brotherhood shunned protests following Nov. 18 government attack on demonstrators.

BY SETH GALINSKY

After several days of protests in Tahrir Square calling on the military to hand over the government to civilian rule, the Egyptian Army high command made clear it has no intention of relinquishing its control.

“The position of the armed forces will remain as it is,” Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, head of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, said Nov. 27 on the eve of elections to parliament. “It will not change in any new constitution.”

The weeklong protests were ignited after the Muslim Brotherhood, the military’s main contender for power, had filled Tahrir Square Nov. 18 in response to the high command’s announcement of restrictions on the committee that will write a new constitution following elections.

Later that night riot police attacked

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‘Fight is for the future,’ say locked-out Pa. Steelworkers

BY JANET POST

MARIETTA, Pa.—Workers locked out by Armstrong World Industries are maintaining their determined 24/7 picket line here and preparing for winter weather. Some 220 members of United Steelworkers Local 285/441, and about 40 unorganized workers, were locked out since July 17, after rejecting company concessions.

“I’m amazed by the amount of pub-

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Steelworkers Sandi Cooper, Dan Walters and Jeff Bode on the picket line at Armstrong World Industries in Marietta, Pa. More than 260 workers have been locked out since July 17.

‘Sugar beet ambassadors’ hit the road for support

BY TONY LANE

MINNEAPOLIS—Members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union have launched a new campaign to win support for their fight against American Crystal Sugar, which locked out 1,300 workers Aug. 1.

Two members from each of American Crystal’s five locked-out plants at the heart of the company’s operations in North Dakota and northern Minnesota are going around speaking to other workers and unionists about their struggle. They call themselves “sugar beet ambassadors.”

On Nov. 22 two ambassadors, Becki Jacobson and Kevin Solum, both locked-out from American Crystal’s Moorhead plant, spoke to a crowd of 75 at a general membership meeting of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 9, in Golden Valley near here. Some \$1,900 was contributed to the union’s Action Fund from a combination of donations made by those at the meeting and union funds.

On Dec. 3 ambassadors are scheduled to speak to American Federation of State, County and Municipal Em-

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Alabama rally for immigrant rights overflows B’ham church

BY SAM MANUEL

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—“We are not going to run away. We will fight for our rights,” said Roberto Leon, a truck driver from Decatur, who was among the overflow crowd here of 1,000 people outside the historic predominantly African-American 16th Street Baptist Church Nov. 21 calling

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US Air Force, Navy war strategy targets China

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Pentagon is developing a war strategy it calls AirSea Battle aimed at countering the emerging threat from China to the U.S. rulers’ military dominance in the Pacific—a dominance that had gone unchallenged since it was conquered by the imperialists’ bloody victory in World War II.

The AirSea Battle concept seeks to combine the U.S. Air Force and Navy in coordinated military operations in the Western Pacific involving potential air and missile strikes on China, noted the *Wall Street Journal*. The AirSea Battle office was created in August, the Defense Department told the media.

“AirSea Battle could be excessively provocative,” noted the *Journal*, as “the plan is the next step in a cycle of military escalation. . . . The Pentagon has delayed implementing and discussing AirSea Battle several times, partly because of concerns over the Chinese reaction.”

The Pentagon’s announcement came shortly before President Barack Obama’s trip to Australia where a recently signed military pact with the government there increases the presence of U.S. Marines and military vessels and aircraft on bases in the country’s north and west, a strategic location in proximity to vital Asian Pacific trade routes.

The move takes place as Washington is stepping up its military activity and working to forge new alliances against China by exploiting disputed claims in the South China Sea between Beijing and Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and others.

The Chinese military has made substantial technological advances in a

relatively short period of time, which includes the development of a new generation of stealth jet fighters, an aircraft carrier, and the world’s first land-based antiship ballistic missile able to change course to hit a moving aircraft carrier.

The Pentagon sees these developments of what it terms “anti-access/area-denial capabilities” as “threatening to make U.S. power projection increasingly risky,” according to a 2010 report issued by the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a Pentagon think tank in Washington.

At the Pacific Forum held in March 2011 in Honolulu, Gaoyue Fan, a senior colonel in China’s People’s Liberation Army, described AirSea Battle as a significant change “of battlefield from the Middle East and Central Asia to the western Pacific Ocean,” and a shift “from destroying international terrorist networks to defeating the PLA.”

“China’s strategy is defensive,” he stated. “The PLA will never target the U.S. military except if it intervenes in a Taiwan conflict or launches a preemptive strike against China.” Fan added, if the U.S. would halt its defense of Taiwan, “we would cease development of [anti-access] capabilities and other difficult issues could be solved.”

In late 2009, then Defense Secretary Robert Gates directed the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps to develop an AirSea Battle plan. This was a departure from the AirLand Battle Doctrine in place during most of the post-World War II period.

In March 2010, Adm. Robert Willard, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, ex-



U.S.Navy/Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Justin E. Yarborough
Super Hornet fighter jet takes off from USS George Washington in Western Pacific Oct. 25.

pounded on the new approach in a statement before the House Armed Services Committee. He termed “China’s military modernization” a “challenge” to Washington’s “freedom of action in the region.”

The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments report provides some

details about the AirSea Battle strategy. It could include space operations by the U.S. Air Force “to blind PLA space-based ocean surveillance systems,” and long-range Air Force strikes to destroy the Chinese military’s “maritime surveillance systems and long-range ballistic missile launchers.”

Locked-out sugar workers

Continued from front page
ployees Local 4001 in Brainerd. AF-SCME Council 5 has donated \$10,000 to the workers’ fund. Locked-out workers will also speak Nov. 29 at a Twin Cities union-sponsored fund-raiser and rally to support their fight at the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1189 union hall in South St. Paul.

The outreach effort comes on the heels of a successful food drive that distributed 30,000 pounds of food. “It started out as a small project and ended up being a lot bigger with all the support and everything,” locked-out worker Debra Kostrzewski told WDAY TV Channel 6. “We figured we’d do a really good one for the holidays.”

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, a Democrat, made his first public statement since the beginning of the almost four-month lockout on Nov. 23 urging “both parties to return to negotiations and find a solution that returns those locked-out workers to their jobs and restores stability to the company and the communities in which it operates.” Dayton’s only previous action was to meet

with company executives and union leaders prior to the lockout.

American Crystal Sugar began running ads for replacement workers in local papers in Grand Forks and Fargo Nov. 20. The company’s vice president for administration, Brian Ingulsrud, described the step to the *Grand Forks Herald* as a move into “a new phase, one that is more efficient for more of a long-term lockout.” He reported the company received 100 applications and their long-term goal is to hire 1,300. Ingulsrud told the *Herald* that because the company pays for housing and per-diem costs of the Strom-hired scabs, in addition to their wages, it’s more expensive than hiring workers from the area.

Donations to the sugar workers can be sent to BCTGM Local 167G, 100 N 3rd, Suite 50, Grand Forks, ND 58203. Write checks to BCTGM 167G with “2011 BCTGM lockout” in the memo line.

To schedule speaking engagements, indicate who to contact and where.

Natalie Morrison contributed to this article.

THE MILITANT

‘I like reading the labor coverage’

“I like reading the labor coverage because it gives both sides of the story, not like mainstream media.”

—**Jessyka Lamirande**
Laurentian University graduate student, organizer of Pro-Choice Sudbury, Sudbury, Ontario.



Militant/John Steele

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UK family fights eviction by gov't after 'terror' frame-up

BY DAG TIRSEN
AND HUGO WILS

MANCHESTER, England—Talking to people at a street corner near Long-sight market in a predominantly Pakistani immigrant neighborhood here, it's striking how many know about and support the Farooqi family.

The seven of them, including two children, are threatened with eviction by the government after the father, Munir Farooqi, was framed up and sentenced to four life terms on charges of "preparing terrorist acts, soliciting murder and distributing terrorist literature."

More than 14,000 people have signed petitions protesting the eviction. Although a number of people have been evicted from council housing in Britain since street disturbances in August, this is the first time the Crown Prosecution Service has threatened eviction using the Counter-Terrorism Act of 2008, adopted under the then Labour government.

A vigil was held Oct. 18 outside the Longsight police station, where local imams were meeting with police to discuss the pending eviction.

Two weeks later 160 people attended a packed local protest meeting. Among the speakers were members of the family, Manchester City Councillor Rahnawaz Akbar, and representatives from the Muslim Public Affairs Committee, Cageprisoners.com, the Somali Men's Forum, the Madina Mosque, and the Refugee and Asylum Participatory Action Research group.

During the Eid celebrations marking the end of Ramadan, many in the Manchester mosques signed the petition, which was handed over to the Crown Prosecution Service by a picket of 40.

Harris Farooqi, who was charged along with his father and acquitted, is now a leader of the Save the Family Home campaign. "This is not a Muslim case, but a concern for everybody," he told the *Militant*, noting this is just the

beginning of a long campaign for justice.

"This was an extremely challenging case," Detective Chief Superintendent Tony Porter, head of the North West Counter-Terrorism Unit, explained, "because we did not recover any blueprint, attack plan or endgame for these men. However what we were able to prove was their ideology."

Rose-Marie Franton of the Crown Prosecution Service said their case was based on "secretly recorded conversations by two undercover police officers" who claim the defendants were being "groomed to fight abroad against coalition and British troops in Afghanistan."

NY 'counterterrorism' cops press flimsy frame-up

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEW YORK—A recent arrest here sheds light on the expanding "counterterrorist" apparatus built up inside the New York Police Department, which functions to erode constitutional protections and rights of working people under pretext of "national security."

Jose Pimentel, 27, a Dominican-born naturalized U.S. citizen, was arrested on "conspiracy" and "terrorism" charges Nov. 19 after the New York police burst into his Manhattan apartment. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly charged that Pimentel was a "lone wolf" who had "self-radicalized."

However, facts show Pimentel did virtually nothing "alone." He was constantly prodded and assisted by an undercover provocateur. The unnamed informer continuously got Pimentel over to his apartment, gave him marijuana, after which he recorded what he said. In the apartment, press reports say, the snitch prodded and helped Pimentel build a pipe bomb.

If convicted, Pimentel faces 25 years to life. He has pleaded not guilty.



Some 160 people participated in protest meeting in Manchester, England, Oct. 31 backing fight by Farooqi family against eviction from home in Pakistani immigrant neighborhood.

Police say their charges are based on information supplied by the informant, at least one undercover cop, and analysts from their "cyber-terror unit." According to Kelly, Pimentel had spoken of targeting police and returning military personnel, but that his plans were still "vague."

The arrest was made by the New York Police, not the FBI. The FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force in New York was invited to get in on the bust twice, but declined. The FBI told the press that Pimentel "didn't have the predisposition or the ability to do anything on his own."

The FBI also said the zealous participation of the informant would make it "possible" for Pimentel to argue he was entrapped.

The FBI refused to file any federal charges against Pimentel. At a press conference Nov. 20 Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. announced he would "proceed under state charges." He was accompanied by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Commissioner Kelly.

Filing charges in state court makes the frame-up easier because the cops can use conspiracy charges that only involved two people—Pimentel and the snitch, who, as a cop agent, is immune from prosecution.

Pimentel was initially assigned a Legal Aid attorney. However, the group had to withdraw after they were informed that the undercover provocateur in the case also had a Legal Aid lawyer on previous narcotics charges.

Over the past decade the NYPD has built a massive counterterrorism apparatus with more than 1,000 operatives. New York cops are stationed in London working with Scotland Yard and in Lyon, France, working with Interpol, as well as posted to police headquarters in Hamburg, Tel Aviv and Toronto. Detectives have traveled to Afghanistan, Egypt, Yemen and Pakistan.

Undercover police officers have especially targeted Muslim neighborhoods, and have built databases with all kinds of information about residents: where they shop, get their hair cut and pray. There has also been a program to infiltrate Muslim student groups at a number of colleges around the city.

Pimentel's father, Juan Jose Pimentel, told the press in the Dominican Republic that there was no basis for his son's arrest. "They want to set an example with terrorism," he said.

Party-Building Fund blasts well beyond goal!

BY OMARI MUSA

Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party raised \$109,890 in this year's Party-Building Fund drive, well beyond the \$100,000 goal.

Supporters of the party reached out to coworkers, strikers and locked-out workers, people they met selling the *Militant* door to door and participants in social protest actions.

The Party-Building Fund provides an opportunity to garner support for building a revolutionary working-class party today, one that can play an indispensable role in organizing a mass revolutionary movement capable of replacing the dictatorship of capital with a government of workers and farmers and joining the

worldwide struggle for socialism.

Lincoln tops the chart—as it did in the international *Militant* subscription campaign—having collected 139 percent of its local quota!

Jacque Henderson from Houston recounts that while going door to door campaigning for SWP candidates one worker asked, "How do you finance your efforts?" After some discussion he gave to the fund.

In New York City Nancy Boyasko reports that nearly \$175 was collected at street tables, political events, demonstrations and door-to-door teams.

"Every dollar counts," says Joel Britton from San Francisco, where supporters collected over \$1,800 more than the local quota. "One such dollar came from a sugarcane refinery worker in nearby Crockett. She was attracted to a *Militant* headline on the sugar beet workers fight against American Crystal Sugar's lockout in the Upper Midwest. She and others at C&H Sugar have been working lots of overtime. She had heard this was due to less sugar than normal being refined in the Red River Valley where 1,300 sugar workers have been battling a lockout for the last four months."

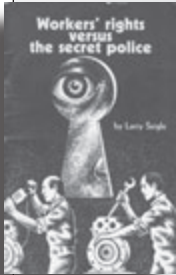
"We got off to an early start with many contributions pledged in the first

couple of weeks," writes Norton Sandler from Los Angeles. "A highlight was the contributions received going door to door with the *Militant* in working-class neighborhoods. In the last three weeks we received donations from four workers of \$25, \$20 and two for \$5."

Thank you to all who contributed to make the drive a smashing success and bringing in the funds needed to take advantage of the growing opportunities to build the party.

Workers' Rights versus the Secret Police

by Larry Seigle



Since the inception of the modern revolutionary workers movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs and political frame-ups.—\$5

pathfinderpress.com

Party-Building Fund final chart

Area	Quota	Collected	%
Lincoln, Neb.	\$200	\$277	139%
San Francisco	\$14,000	\$15,818	113%
Philadelphia	\$3,700	\$4,070	110%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$9,085	107%
Houston	\$4,000	\$4,259	106%
Seattle	\$9,000	\$9,524	106%
New York	\$20,000	\$20,954	105%
Boston*	\$4,100	\$4,255	104%
Atlanta*	\$10,200	\$10,508	103%
Twin Cities	\$6,000	\$6,120	102%
Des Moines*	\$3,200	\$3,258	102%
Miami	\$3,200	\$3,253	102%
Washington, DC	\$7,500	\$7,583	101%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$10,075	101%
Other		\$850	
Total	\$103,600	\$109,890	110%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$100,000	100%
* Raised goal			

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US-led strikes in Pakistan kill soldiers, spark outrage

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NATO airstrikes killed 24 Pakistani soldiers Nov. 26 near the country's border with Afghanistan, further inflaming tensions between Washington and Islamabad. Responding to this latest violation of Pakistan's sovereignty, protests have erupted in several cities and discontent within the military is on the rise.

Washington launched the attack on two border posts in the middle of the night, continuing the assault even after Pakistani officials asked that it be halted. "Military officials say the posts were attacked without warning at 2 a.m. while most of the around 50 soldiers were sleeping," reported the *Wall Street Journal*, "and that NATO helicopters and jets even attacked Pakistani military forces sent in as back-up during the two-hour assault."

In an interview with the London *Daily Telegraph*, Amirzeb Khan, 23, who was wounded in the assault, said, "Initially, we thought that the attackers were Taliban and we took positions to retaliate but then saw that at least four helicopters were shelling from above."

This assault occurs as Washington has stepped up incursions of U.S. special operations forces into Pakistani territory—which included the assassination of Osama bin Laden by U.S. Navy SEALs in May—alongside unrelenting strikes by aerial drones.

In Pakistan, in response to the killing of the troops, protesters rallied Nov. 26 in Islamabad and Karachi, where thousands gathered outside the U.S. consulate condemning the assault, reported the *Telegraph*. Rallies continued over the next several days.

An unnamed Pakistani official told the *Washington Post* that anger within the ranks of Pakistan's army had "reached an alarming level and the military leadership was very worried about it."

The Pakistani government has indefinitely closed its border crossing for trucks that bring almost half of the supplies used by U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. A similar move was undertaken for 11 days in September-October last year until Washington apologized for an attack that killed two Pakistani troops.

In a further effort to placate popular anger, Islamabad gave Washington two weeks to pull out of the Shamsi Air Base in southwestern Pakistan from where U.S. drone attacks are launched. A similar demand was made in June, which Pakistani authorities subsequently dropped.

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar, three days before the U.S.-led attack in Pakistan, a NATO airstrike killed six children, another civilian, and injured two girls, according to a spokesman for the governor.

The *New York Times* reported that Abdul Samad, an uncle of four of the children who were killed, "said his relatives were working in fields near their village when they were attacked without warning by an aircraft."



Protesters rally in Karachi, Pakistan, Nov. 27 against deadly NATO airstrike the day before.

'Militant' subscription drive over the top!

Continued from front page

to the dictatorship of capital. Through such a movement working people will transform themselves and become capable of building a new social order based on solidarity and the needs of toiling humanity.

Subscriptions were sold on picket lines to embattled workers and their supporters, door to door in working-class neighborhoods, at factory plant gates and mine portals, on the job, at union meetings, labor demonstrations, social protests, Occupy sites and campuses.

This issue of the *Militant* will be mailed from New York; Montreal; London; Auckland, New Zealand; and Sydney, Australia to more than 3,700 subscribers in 32 countries.

"We went over our quota of 165 by one tonight," wrote Alyson Kennedy from Chicago two days before the end of the drive. "We sold nine subscriptions—one for six months together with *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs—on Monday at two truck stops. This makes 13 subscriptions at truck stops.

"Like all workers," Kennedy added, "truckers are following what is going on in the world and the economic crisis, and are open to a fighting course by the working class to take power. I can say for everyone in Chicago that this was one of the best subscription drives yet. And more to come!"

"In the last eight days of the subscription drive," writes Deborah Liatos from New York, "we sold 82 subscriptions and 465 single copies of the socialist newsweekly, making up for the ground lost during the previous two weeks." New York ended with a total of 262 of their goal of 260. Liatos led the daily effort involving the entire membership of the New York branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

"We sold six subscriptions and 41 single copies at Metropolitan Transit Authority depots in Fresh Pond, Queens, and Coney Island," Liatos adds. "Transit workers, members of TWU Local 100, face deep concession demands by the city as they head toward the expiration of their contract January 15." Twenty-three subscriptions and 105 single copies of the paper were sold at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

"The *Militant* is regularly passed around on the picket line of locked-out Steelworkers in Marietta, Pa.," writes

Janet Post from Philadelphia, "and recent issues are made available at the United Steelworkers Local 285/441 union hall in Lancaster." These workers have been fighting a union-busting drive since July.

"During the drive," adds Post, "one worker renewed his subscription and said he encouraged a student who visited the picket line to subscribe. Another who renewed developed pictures she had taken on the picket line for use by the *Militant*. A retired subscriber came to the picket line to bring a letter to the *Militant* editor about support for the workers. USW Local 285/441 also renewed its subscription."

The *Militant* now has hundreds of subscribers among locked-out sugar workers and their supporters in the Red River Valley in the Upper Midwest, longshore workers fighting a union-busting drive in Longview, Wash., locked-out Steelworkers in Marietta, Pa., and striking flour mill workers in San Antonio.

During the drive, hundreds of books were sold at a reduced price along with a subscription to workers and youth eager to deepen their understanding and knowledge of past struggles by working people and the lessons drawn from them by working-class revolutionary leaders.

From all accounts, the best selling title has been *Teamster Rebellion*, the first in a four-volume series by Farrell Dobbs on the massive struggles waged by truck drivers and coal haulers in the Midwest during the 1930s to establish a union and fight for improved conditions in the midst of the Great Depression. (See ad on this page)

It won't be long before the subs sold at the beginning of the drive will expire. Getting back to these readers about renewing will be a key component of building and expanding the paper's long-term readership.

A cheer for our collective effort and a warm welcome to our new subscribers!

'Supercommittee' fizzles, rulers target working-class with cuts

BY JOHN STUDER

The special 12-member Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction—dubbed the "supercommittee"—announced Nov. 21 in an email that it had failed to fulfill its mandate to produce a master plan for cutting at least \$1.2 trillion from the U.S. budget.

The bipartisan committee could not agree on recommendations for slashing Social Security, Medicare and other social programs workers and farmers have increasingly come to depend on. Nor could it come to any agreement on how to increase their government's tax revenue.

The committee was established in August as part of a last-minute deal struck between Democratic President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans on a series of budget-cutting measures in exchange for agreement to raise the federal "debt ceiling."

The agreement also called for more than \$900 billion in cuts over 10 years to "discretionary spending," the part of federal budget expenses that Congress normally decides, which includes social programs, various

government agency budgets, and aspects of military spending. It does not include payments to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries or Social Security.

The supercommittee was tasked with drawing up another \$1.2 trillion over 10 years from further cuts or new taxes. Under the agreement, if the committee failed, automatic cuts in social programs, including Medicare, and military spending, would be "triggered."

These cuts are now slated to take effect. However, they are not budgeted until 2013—after the next round of federal elections. Both Democratic and Republican politicians are pushing to eliminate some of the cuts to the military. Obama has vowed to veto any effort to change the "automatic" reductions, which he urges be coupled with changes in the tax code to increase government revenue.

Following the failure of the supercommittee, Fitch Ratings announced Nov. 28 that it may cut the U.S. government's AAA credit rating if steps

Continued on page 6

Teamster Rebellion by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle.

First in a four-volume series. The other books are *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics*, and *Teamster Bureaucracy*.

PathfinderPress.com

ON THE PICKET LINE

Strikers, students exchange solidarity at McGill University

MONTREAL—1,700 support workers on strike against McGill University and thousands of students protesting rising tuition costs have joined together in solidarity here.

The workers, members of the McGill University Non-Academic Certified Association (MUNACA), affiliated to the Public Service Alliance of Canada, are nearing the three month point in their strike, which began Sept. 1. Negotiations, which had been suspended by a government-appointed conciliator, will restart Nov. 25. The workers are demanding wage parity with other universities in Montreal, protection of their benefits and pensions and shift premiums for evening and weekend work.

On Nov. 10 the university administration requested the intervention of 100 riot police on campus when some 200 students demonstrated in front of the administration building against higher tuition. The police used pepper spray and tear gas. The students earlier participated in a student march of at least 20,000. McGill support staff on strike had a contingent of hundreds in the march.

On Nov. 14 a statement by Kevin Whittaker, president of MUNACA, was read to a rally of 1,000 held in front of the administration building to protest the police attack. Whittaker said, "The university's response to protesters on Thursday night was a dismal and disturbing display of authoritarian, violent tactics." During the rally, participants waved to strikers picketing at an entrance to the university and shouted, "Solidarité." The strikers' picketing is greatly restricted by injunctions that the courts have granted the university administration.

—Joe Young

Limestone workers strike in Indiana

OOLITIC, Ind.—On Nov. 15, members of Millworkers Local 8093 at the Indiana Limestone mill here rejected a host of concessions contained in the company's "last and best offer" and voted unanimously to strike starting the following day.

The 50 strikers—about half the mill's workforce—have picketed all four gates. The Millworkers cut and transport giant slabs of "dimensional"

limestone. Coworkers organized into two other unions—the Journeyman Stonecutters and the International Association of Machinists—are honoring the picket lines. A small group of workers organized by the Laborers union have crossed, but production is shut down.

Acquired in November 2010 by Cleveland-based Resilience Capital Partners, Indiana Limestone's new owners are pushing to gut seniority, cut sick days, and make it easier to fire workers on the pretext of drugs, alcohol, or tardiness. One proposed key change in contract language would substitute the word "proficient" for "qualified," allowing bosses to circumvent seniority rights and lay off older workers, many of whom have worked in the mill for decades.

Ronnie Watson, Local 8093 negotiator and mill veteran, explained, "It's not about money, it's about our rights."

Kerry King has worked at the plant since 1980. He said this was the first strike at the plant in more than 30 years. He could retire, he said, but "I'm sticking around for the younger guys" who have never been involved in a strike.

Spirits on the picket line have been high. Passing motorists on Route 37 steadily honk their horns in support. A number of truckers making deliveries to the plant have turned around and refused to cross the line after seeing the pickets. Community members have stopped by with donations of food. And representatives of area unions have joined the picket line, including United Auto Workers Local 440, which organizes workers at the GM plant in nearby Bedford. Members and supporters of the Occupy Bloomington encampment have also visited the strikers to offer their solidarity.

—Carl Weinberg

Solidarity grows for Greek steelworkers

ATHENS, Greece—On the 25th day of their strike, 400 workers at the Greek Steelworks in Aspropyrgos, a suburb northwest of here, received a boost when the Aspropyrgos Labor Council called a three-hour work stoppage and 5,000 workers rallied outside



Militant/Carl Weinberg

Members of Millworkers Local 8093 on strike against Indiana Limestone in Oolitic, Ind., Nov. 22. From left, Dave Bauer, Scott Clark, Dusty Amstutz and Brad Hatten.

the plant in solidarity, according to local union president Giorgos Sifonios, who spoke with *Militant* reporters.

Several hundred people marched in the nearby town of Elefsina that same evening, November 24, defiantly shouting, "Twenty-five days of strike! We will celebrate Christmas in the Steelworks!" The evening action was organized by the All-Workers Militant Front (PAME), a national trade union federation.

The workers are resisting company demands to cut hours down to five a day, amounting to a 40 percent wage cut.

Maria Delli a wife of a striker, announced at the evening action the formation of a committee of struggle of strikers' wives. "We share with our husbands the struggle to make ends meet," she said. "We cannot live on 500 euros [\$665] a month. Let [mill owner] Mr. Manesis start up the furnaces by himself if he wants."

"Don't expect us to buckle," Sifonios told rally participants. "We will not go back until our 34 coworkers are rehired and the company backs down from its demand for a five-hour working day. We continue to fight and to open roads for all workers in Greece." He talked about efforts to convince workers from

the company's two other plants in Velestino and Volos to join the strike.

—Georges Mehrabian and Natasha Terlexis

Greece: 48-hour strike shuts down Athens newspaper

"Some 850 of us, almost the entire workforce, shut down the printing plant as well as the editorial and press offices of Eleftherotipia Nov. 21 and 22 in a 48-hour strike," Moisis Litsis, a journalist at the Eleftherotipia daily and an alternate member of the executive committee of the Athens Daily Press Union (ESIEA), told the *Militant* in an interview.

"We have been working without pay for four months now. Our main demand is to be paid all the wages and salaries owed to the press workers, journalists, office workers and others," said Litsis. "Several other major dailies have successfully cut wages by 10 percent and have gotten workers to sign individual contracts in order to undermine collective agreements with the trade unions. We will join the general strike called for December 1 by all the union federations and will then strike for an additional two days in order to continue pressing for our demands."

—Georges Mehrabian and Natasha Terlexis

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



December 12, 1986

Five thousand flight attendants who struck Trans World Airlines (TWA) for 72 days last spring "are determined that they will return to their jobs," according to Vicki Frankovich, president of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants.

Frankovich also explained that the IFFA initiated a lawsuit, which is currently being heard in federal district court in Kansas City, charging TWA with bad-faith bargaining during the 24 months preceding the strike. "Their goal was to undercut the cost of all the other carriers by hiring 19-year-olds and ridding themselves of the older work force," she stated.

By imposing massive work rule changes, including more forced overtime, TWA is currently operating with 4,000 workers doing the jobs formerly held by 6,500.



December 11, 1961

Attorney General Robert Kennedy is a rank hypocrite. This was demonstrated in his Dec. 1 announcement of the indictment of the Communist Party for not registering under the Internal Security Act as a "foreign agent." Kennedy asserted that the act "does not outlaw the Communist Party."

The party was indicted on 12 counts. Eleven were for each of the days it failed to register after the Nov. 20 deadline, and the 12th for failing to file a list of members and a financial statement. If convicted, the party could be fined \$10,000 on each of the 12 counts.

Registered members would be barred from federal employment. They could not hold union office. It would be a crime for any of them to apply for a passport. Under the Smith Act, they could be prosecuted as admitted members of a "seditious" organization.



December 12, 1936

Six weeks ago the Ames & Harris plant struck in Portland for better wages and conditions. Their work was diverted to the Ames & Harris plant in San Francisco and the Bemis Bag Co., also in S.F. The rushing of work and the obvious preparation for a lockout, forced a spontaneous strike in the Bemis shop three weeks ago.

What helped to precipitate this strike was that the workers felt that they were working on "hot" goods from Portland and the local Bemis plant.

This is a complete tie-up of the new bag making industry in San Francisco and throughout the northwest. Strikers demands are: union recognition, with a steward system and no discrimination on union affiliation and activity; a 40-hour week; time and a half for overtime; 15 percent raise in wages for all workers.

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

by Jack Barnes

Building the kind of party working people need to prepare for coming class battles through which they will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all society. A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective

action to overturn the exploitative system of capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist foundations. —\$24

Pathfinderpress.com

US gov't steps up cyberwar against revolutionary Cuba

BY JIM CARSON

Washington is stepping up its anti-Cuba “cyberwar,” through which it disrupts communications on the island and uses the Internet and other networks to spread false propaganda and organize counterrevolutionary activity. These efforts represent a rapidly expanding front in the imperialists’ more than 50-year campaign to undermine and overthrow the revolution.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors, the U.S. agency responsible for government-sponsored nonmilitary broadcasting outside the country, granted a contract to Maryland-based firm Washington Software Inc. to set up a system capable of sending 24,000 messages from the U.S. government every week to cell phone users in Cuba, with the option of further increases. The contract term began September 15.

In the government’s bid solicitation, it provided a list of answers to potential questions, including: “We are concerned with the legality of sending these types of notifications to people in another country. Does the U.S. government take legal responsibility?” Answer: “The Agency assumes responsibility for the content of the messages. The contractor assumes all responsibility under this requirement.” In other words, for the \$84,000 a year contract the bidder must be willing to disregard international law.

According to the *Palm Beach Post*, “the system makes it almost impossible to block the texts because the computer makes them look as though each individual message, or SMS, was sent from a different telephone number.”

Carlos García-Perez, the director of Radio and TV Martí, said that the stations are “using the text messages to deliver the same kind of news and information that the U.S. government-run stations already broadcast” to Cuba. The two stations transmit counterrevolutionary propaganda in Cuba and southern Florida.

Earlier this year a Cuban court sentenced Alan Gross, a U.S. government contractor, to 15 years in prison for distributing sophisticated satellite Internet and voice communications equipment

to selected individuals and groups in Cuba as part of a covert State Department operation.

According to the April issue of the Paris-based *Le Monde Diplomatique*, “Possession of a satellite phone is strictly forbidden in Cuba for national security reasons. In fact, apart from avoiding all control by local authorities, such devices . . . permit the transmission of data to coordinate an air strike to a country that has been the victim of many terrorist attacks—close to a total of 6,000, the most recent in 1997—and air bombings since 1959.”

In addition to direct government operations, Washington’s proxy groups based among counterrevolutionary Cuban exile mercenaries are also increasingly involved in cyberwar operations. The *Miami Herald* published Nov. 27 a front page article titled “Cyber commandos spill phone numbers of top Cuban officials.” The article reported that the Miami-based website of the United Front of Exiles and Organized Groups, or FUEGO in Spanish, has been publishing the personal phone numbers and other details on the private lives of many central Cuban officials, saying it wants to “warn” them that they “face a dark future if the government collapses.”

The group brags it will post the cell phone numbers of thousands of Cuban security and intelligence officers and the street addresses of “virtually every single military base on the island.”

New Cuban farmer talks about experiences



Militant/Maggie Trowe

BOYEROS, HAVANA, Cuba—David González López, 34, (right) owner of La Finca El Valle Escondido (Hidden Valley Farm) here, shows peach pits from his harvest that he will use to grow more trees to farmers attending the Third International Conference on Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture. (See article on this page.)

After serving in the Revolutionary Armed Forces, where he was trained as a welder, González became a farmer, part of the wave of new farmers who since 2008 have been recovering uncultivated land. His farm is part of a Credit and Service Cooperative that includes a number of farms in this municipality outside Havana.

The National Association of Small Farmers of Cuba (ANAP) organizes some 400,000 farmers into cooperatives that provide loans, technical aid, access to scarce machinery, and help in selling agricultural produce to institutions and local markets.

González lives with his family in a small house he built on land that was a deserted area covered with trash and marabú brush. After trial and error, he found he could grow peaches as well as vegetables. For two years he sold only to the local community. He is now producing enough for the cooperative to sell part of his produce to area hospitals and schools.

—MAGGIE TROWE

Cuba farm conference discusses advances, challenges

BY MAGGIE TROWE

GÜIRA DE MELENA, Cuba—More than 250 people from 26 countries, the majority small farmers, attended the Third International Conference on Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture here Nov. 20-27. The conference was organized by Cuba’s National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), La Via Campesina, and the Latin America Agroecology Movement.

Participants, including Cuban farmers from across the island, visited cooperative farms in several provinces,

where farmers explained intensified efforts since 2008 to bring back into production arable land abandoned during Cuba’s economic crisis of the 1990s, to increase food production, and to reduce food imports. In the last three years, more than 1.2 million hectares (3 million acres) of idle land has been distributed to farmers, including some who are farming for the first time.

Participants also heard reports from ANAP leaders and from farmers in Cuba and other countries. The most productive component of Cuban ag-

riculture are the small farmers, said ANAP Vice President Félix González Viego at the opening of the event. More than 100,000 small farmers won title to the land they worked with the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959.

Several U.S. farmers participated in the conference, including Randy Jasper, a grain farmer and member of Family Farm Defenders in Wisconsin; Mimi Arnstein, whose farm is part of a vegetable cooperative in Marshfield, Vt.; and Ben Burkett, a Mississippi vegetable farmer who is active in the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and president of the National Family Farm Coalition.

‘Supercommittee’ fizzles, rulers prepare cuts

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aren’t taken to “place U.S. public finances on a sustainable path.”

Before taking office in 2009, Obama stated, “We are going to have to make some tough choices under my watch,” indicating that cuts in Social Security and Medicare will be a “central part” of the goals of his administration. “Everybody is going to have to give,” he said, kicking off his demagogic drumbeat of “shared sacrifice.”

Politicians from both parties have sought ways to make working people pay for the rulers’ growing government budget deficit and mounting debt.

Each time they have faced political divisions about how to craft their attacks on workers in order to best deflect opposition and protest. Democrats have used populist rhetoric against the 1 percent—the “super-rich”—to put together

packages combining small tax increases on the wealthy along with deep cuts and other measures that fall heaviest on the working class.

Republicans have appealed to workers’ hatred for government bureaucracy and red tape to call for tax cuts, or other tax “reform,” to bundle together with deep cuts to social programs.

Obama distanced himself from the committee’s deliberations, playing no role in efforts to broker a deal.

One trend that is clear over the last year is that both sides are increasingly open to taking greater political risks in order to continue deepening their attacks on workers. “When you hear Republicans claim that Democrats refused to touch their sacred cows of spending,” the *New York Times* editorialized Nov. 21, “remember that the Democratic offer would have cut \$475 billion from Medi-

care and Medicaid over 10 years, nearly half of which would have come directly from beneficiaries.”

While the rulers strive to package their assault on working people, one aspect of the capitalists’ government debt is sacrosanct—the growing interest paid to holders of U.S. treasury bonds. Big capitalists in the U.S. and abroad are paid more than \$400 billion a year, some 15 percent of the federal budget.

Following the default of the supercommittee, Democratic and Republican politicians have engaged in an orgy of recriminations, as partisan battle lines for the 2012 elections are tightened.

Next up are fights over two measures set to expire at the end of the year—reductions in Social Security payroll taxes and extensions in unemployment compensation for the growing numbers of long-term jobless.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes

The 1959 Cuban Revolution had a worldwide political impact, including on workers and youth in the imperialist heartland. As the proletarian-based struggle for Black rights was advancing in the U.S., the social transformation fought for and won by Cuban toilers set an example that socialist revolution is not only necessary—it can be made and defended. \$10

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Production drops, banks wobble throughout Europe

BY JOHN STUDER

Manufacturing production is contracting across the 17-nation eurozone. Between August and September, orders for manufactured products tumbled 9.2 percent in Italy, 5.3 percent in Spain, 6.2 percent in France and 4.4 percent in Germany, the region's major industrial exporting power.

One immediate factor is the effect of austerity measures adopted by heavily indebted European governments, which have meant sharp reductions in state spending and declining purchasing power of workers hit by layoffs and other cutbacks, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

The decline in manufacturing is most often presented in the bourgeois media as a consequence of the mountains of unpayable debt and contraction of credit. The reverse is true, however. The roots of what's referred to as a debt crisis lie in the decades-long slowdown in production, employment and trade.

This process is driven by the historic tendency under capitalism for the rate of profit to decline and the cutthroat competition that flows from it. In its initial stages, the unfolding crisis of the capitalist system is manifest in the financial and banking spheres, an integral and crucial aspect of a system whose foundation is the exploitation of productive labor.

As the ruling families increasingly shift from investment in expanding production to speculative investment, where under the circumstances they find the greatest return, they blow up balloons of debt that inevitably burst with ruinous consequences.

Today banks across the eurozone, with insufficient reserves to cover their massive holdings of government debt whose value is plummeting, are less and less capable of extending credit and heading toward insolvency.

"Banks clamored for emergency funds from the European Central



AP Photo/Michel Euler

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy introduce new "technocrat" Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti at press conference in Strasbourg, France. Elected Italian government was essentially dismissed and Monti installed by European central bankers and continent's two dominant capitalist powers to lead "austerity" against working class.

Bank," the *New York Times* reported Nov. 22, "borrowing the most since early 2009." This, the *Times* said, showed banks are "having trouble obtaining credit."

The *Economist* wrote Nov. 26 that "the crisis in the euro area is turning into a panic."

On Nov. 30, the U.S. Federal Re-

serve, along with the European Central Bank, the Bank of England, and the central banks of Switzerland, Japan and Canada, announced it was lowering the interest rate on loans of dollars to European banks, in an effort to push back the credit crunch.

With the looming threat of massive sovereign debt defaults and large-scale bank failures, capitalists in Europe and throughout the world are increasingly leery of investing in the region.

"The financial fates of Europe's banks and its governments are inextricably linked," the *Financial Times* wrote Nov. 14. "Because the banks are the primary source of funding for government deficits," they get saddled with big holdings of government debt. The risk is rippling throughout the world. Already one large U.S. brokerage firm, MF Global, run by former New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine, went belly up over a \$6.3 billion pile of highly leveraged derivatives betting on European government debt.

Jeffries, the largest independent investment bank in the U.S., is fighting to avoid a similar fate due to holdings in financial instruments tied to debt in Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Other banks in the U.S. and around the world are frantically slashing their holdings in European sovereign debt.

The situation facing the region's weaker powers is stark. The Greek government is now paying more than 120 percent annual interest on new two-year bonds.

The spreading economic crisis pulls more and more countries into the maelstrom. To the east, Hungary had its credit rating cut to junk status and is facing harder conditions for loans from the International Monetary Fund and the European Union.

"The damaging effects of the eurozone's ongoing debt crisis," said Jonathan Loynes, chief European economist at Capital Economics, are shoving "the region's economy back into a deep and protracted recession."

The region's capitalist rulers are torn over what to do. Some scream for inflation of the euro to ease their debt burden. Others, led by Germany, say no, demanding more centralized structures under their control to protect their capital investments from devaluation.

Either way, the eurozone is beginning to tear at the seams. And either way, workers across the continent—particularly in the weaker and most indebted nations—are being forced to bear the brunt of the crisis.

Ala. immigrant rights rally overflows church

Continued from front page

for repeal of the state's new antiworker and anti-immigrant law known as HB 56. Another 2,000 chanted, sang and listened to speeches inside.

"We were at the rally at the capitol on Saturday," said Herman Soto, who came with his friend Reynaldo Campos. Both are painters.

"I want to learn more about the fight against racism in this city. This is important for us," said Soto. "It is good we are getting support from Blacks and others."

Inside, several speakers drew connections with the mass working-class movement by Blacks and their allies to end Jim Crow segregation in this city in the 1960s and the fight for immigrant rights. The rally was broadcast on screen outside and each speaker was translated into Spanish or English as needed.

"HB 56 stands in the doorway of opportunity," said City Council President Roderick Royal. "We will collectively say no to Robert Bentley, Micky Hammon and Scott Beason. We will say no to every reincarnated George Wallace."

On June 11, 1963, Alabama Gov. George Wallace stood in the entrance to the University of Alabama in a failed attempt to block two Black students, Vivian Malone and James Hood, from registering to attend the school. Bentley is the governor of Alabama. Beason and Hammon are members of the Alabama legislature and sponsors of HB 56.

"This law is also aimed at us"

"If this law is aimed at you, it is also aimed at us," said Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Twenty-two-year-old Angela Ramírez from Birmingham said supporters of the law "want to make immigrants the scapegoats for all the problems."

In addition to the many capitalist politicians who either spoke or were introduced, the rally included NAACP Washington Bureau Director Hilary Shelton; Mitch Ackerman, executive vice president of Service Employees International Union; Dolores Huerta, a cofounder of the United Farm Workers union; Monica Ramirez, an attorney at

the Southern Poverty Law Center; and Zayne Smith, coordinator of the newly formed Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice, which organized the rally.

"I have come to Alabama to stand with all those opposing this unjust law," said Luis Gutierrez, a Democratic congressman from Illinois. Gutierrez, who heads the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Immigration Task Force, said immigration policy is a matter for the federal government. "We need one immigration law for the country."

While Democratic politicians highlight Republican sponsorship for anti-immigrant measures in several states, the deepening assault on the rights of immigrant workers in the U.S. is being led by the Democratic administration of President Barack Obama. The White House has stepped up use of local police as immigration cops, checking workers' "status" at their place of employment. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton bragged Oct. 18 that the agency forcibly deported a record 392,000 immigrants last year.

The Alabama law like recent ones in Arizona, Georgia and other states, builds on existing federal law. Its provisions include instructing police to "determine the citizenship and immigration status" of anyone they stop and banning many contracts and business transactions with undocumented immigrants.

Meanwhile, a Nov. 23 ruling by a U.S. district judge temporarily blocked a portion of HB 56 that makes it a felony for undocumented immigrants to carry out transactions with any government agency. Among other things enforcement of that provision would require everyone living in mobile homes to provide proof of citizenship or residency in order to renew registration of the home.

Some 30 percent of Latinos in Alabama live in mobile homes, according to National Immigration Law Center attorneys. A Marshall County revenue commissioner has said that 20 percent of applications for mobile home registrations have been denied in recent weeks because of HB 56, reported *USA Today*.



Militant/Sam Manuel

Some 3,000 people attended Nov. 21 Birmingham, Ala., rally against new state anti-immigrant law. The Barack Obama administration forcibly "removed" nearly 400,000 last year.

Eyes on working class in Egypt

The *Militant* salutes the hundreds of thousands protesting in Egypt’s Tahrir Square and across the country against military rule and demanding political rights.

Since mass mobilizations and a wave of workers’ strikes toppled the U.S.-backed Mubarak dictatorship in February, space has opened up for the working class—the revolutionary class—to organize, be active in politics and establish links with other workers worldwide. Working people have begun to use this space to advance their interests against those of the bosses and their government and have gained valuable experience and confidence in struggle. This is the most important gain.

The Egyptian government remains firmly in the hands of the military, the institution from which Mubarak emerged. It has fought to maintain its dominant place in the Egyptian capitalist government and impede democratic gains. Strikes that threaten “the national economy” remain outlawed. The recent mobilizations erupted after the military rulers moved to ensure any new constitution does not dilute their economic and political power—the very concern that drove commanders to back the overthrow of Mubarak.

The military’s political role in Egypt is an integral part of capitalist rule there. It cannot be fundamentally changed short of revolutionary struggle any more than can the rule of kings and princes in much of the Middle East.

As a result of an opening crack in bourgeois politics following the Mubarak overthrow, Islamist parties—

the most organized bourgeois political force outside the military—are pressing for greater influence. Some see the Islamists as a lesser evil compared to the military, for others the Islamists represent a greater evil and threat to the popular struggle for rights. As the struggle in Egypt continues, it will be even clearer that the Islamists, the liberals and the military are all obstacles to the struggle of workers and farmers.

The example and lessons of the 1979 Iranian revolution remain very important. The working class played the decisive role in that deep-going, modern, popular social revolution in city and countryside. It opened space for workers and landless peasants, for women, for oppressed nationalities, for youth, and for the emergence of a communist party, based in the unions and workers’ councils.

It took a political counterrevolution, led by religious figures and institutions, to stifle the revolutionary thrust unleashed by the overthrow of the Shah and stabilize capitalist rule in the new form of a Bonapartist theocracy. Still, today, the power and depth of the Iranian revolution is shown in the fact that the clerical-dominated regime has not been able to suffocate political discussion and activity.

It’s the working-class battles on a larger and deeper scale that lie ahead in Egypt and the region that will ultimately pose the necessity and possibility for the replacement of the rule of the capitalists and their army with that of the toilers of town and country. For the possibility of victory, workers need time and space to forge their own organizations and political party.

Protests in Egypt against military rule

Continued from front page

a smaller number of protesters who remained in the square. Although the Muslim Brotherhood told its supporters to stay away and concentrate instead on winning the elections, tens of thousands of working people, students and others, outraged at the attack, flooded the square.

Over the next nine days 41 protesters were killed and more than 2,000 wounded in clashes with the cops and soldiers around the country, according to Al Jazeera.

Tantawi dismissed the cabinet and appointed Kamal el-Ganzouri prime minister. Ganzouri was prime minister under former president Hosni Mubarak in the 1990s.

“We are tired of the false promises of democracy, of jobs and compensation for those who were injured during the revolution against Mubarak,” Maie Shere-fay, 21, one of those who went to Tahrir Square after the attack, told the *Militant* in a phone interview from Cairo. “The police were brutal. They shot at people with live ammunition. We need someone else in power who would be trustworthy, not the military.”

The April 6 Youth Movement and the Revolution Youth Coalition, two groups involved in protests, call on the military to appoint a government of “national salvation” headed by Mohamed ElBaradei, former head of the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions urged its members to join the protests. Strikes in textile and other industries in the last few months have won some wage and benefit increases. However, “there has been no answer to the demands of the Egyptian working class for a rise in the minimum wage and pensions,” the federation said in a statement. “Meanwhile workers face victimization” and the firing of union activists, with some facing charges before military courts.

Some at Tahrir Square called for a boycott of the elections. “Not a single party showed up in the square,” Maggie Osama told Al Jazeera. “All the parties are looking for chairs in the parliament.”

“I don’t really like any of the parties, but we need to vote to get a new constitution,” Heidi Hisham Hanafy told the *Militant*. Hanafy was hit by tear gas when passing by Tahrir Square from work Nov. 20.

The demonstrations in Tahrir Square dwindled as the polls opened for the first day of elections Nov. 28,

with long lines of voters.

There are more than 6,700 candidates for elections to the two houses of the parliament. The 47 competing political parties range from Islamist groups, including Salafists and the Muslim Brotherhood that want to impose some form of Sharia law, to “liberal” secular capitalist parties such as the Free Egyptians party headed by billionaire telecoms tycoon Naguib Sawiris, and forces allied with ElBaradei. The complicated balloting will take place in stages through March.

The Muslim Brotherhood is expected to win a plurality in the elections.

“They are very well organized with lots of money, the most experience of any party, and well trained,” Karam Youseff, a bookstore owner in Cairo, told the *Militant*. “In the countryside, in the city, in every alley, everyplace you see the Muslim Brotherhood, giving away food, helping in hospitals. They have a big base in the streets.”

Youseff, who is voting for a social-democratic coalition, says the secular parties “need lots of time to reach people in Upper Egypt and the countryside” and compete effectively against the Muslim Brotherhood. For this to happen she thinks the military needs to maintain control for the time being.

Alaa Hani Murad, a recent graduate from the British University in Cairo, has a different point of view. The appointment of Ganzouri and the attacks on protesters “show how reactionary the Supreme Military Council is,” she told the *Militant* by phone. “They should go back to the barracks as fast as possible.”

Army one of largest employers in Egypt

High-ranking army officials are an integral part of Egypt’s capitalist class. The military, which owns farms and large factories, is one of the single largest employers in Egypt today.

When the military regime ousted Mubarak in February following the large protests, they were also protecting their own business interests.

Many armed forces commanders had opposed plans by Mubarak to be succeeded by his son Gamal, who unlike every other president since the overthrow of the king in 1952 was not a high-ranking military officer.

As the military regime prepares further repression, workers at the Suez seaport recently refused to unload a seven-ton shipment of tear gas from Wilmington in the U.S. destined for use by the police, according to *Al Ahram*.

Pa. Steelworkers

Continued from front page

lic support we’re getting,” production worker Kirby Kreider told the *Militant* while on picket duty. “A few people stop by every day. Most are aware that we were locked out. Truck drivers sometimes stop their rigs to give us supplies and wish us good luck.”

“We’re more unified as everybody’s gotten to know each other better than we had at work,” said Cindy Staples.

The plant is an “open shop,” meaning each worker chooses whether to be a member of the union. Some of the 40 nonunion workers have joined the picket line and are considering joining, according to Staples.

In addition to concessions around wages, health benefits, pensions and seniority, Armstrong bosses are pushing for a mandatory 12-hour workday and the ability to use salaried employees to perform hourly work, said John Bevel, Unit 441 president.

Replacement workers and supervisory personnel are running production at the plant. The scabs are driven into the factory by vans with covered windows.

At the union hall in Lancaster each Monday, the union’s Employee Relief Committee greets locked-out workers who come by for aid and to discuss developments. Barb Dabbs, a member of the committee, pointed to a stack of letters and contributions. “Those are mostly from USW locals,” she said. “There are so many, we ran out of thank-you notes.”

“A lot of people stop down on the line and give us a little cash,” she stated.

Brian Wilson, newly assigned line coordinator—responsible for shelter, propane heat, straw, snacks and maintenance—said strikers gained more space for pickets after tracking down a county map that pushed the company guards further down the road to Armstrong property.

Armstrong corporate communications director Jennifer Johnson has thus far declined to return calls about the lockout from the *Militant*. Representatives for Pennsylvania Gov. Thomas Corbett have also not replied to inquiries.

The USW International in Pittsburgh released a letter from Pennsylvania Sen. Robert Casey Jr. to Matthew Espe, CEO of Armstrong. Casey writes, in part, “I urge Armstrong World Industries to resume bargaining with the USW in a manner that will produce a mutually acceptable outcome.” A staff representative in the senator’s Washington, D.C., office told the *Militant* that “Senator Casey is monitoring the issue, but has no further comment.”

“The company just looks at the workers with contempt. They think of us as a bunch of ‘clock punchers,’” picket Dan Walters told the *Militant*.

‘Company wants to divide us’

“The company wants to divide us, young and old,” said Sandi Cooper, who has worked at Armstrong for 34 years. “This is not just for ourselves, but for the future.”

The workers also discussed the lockout of 1,300 sugar beet workers in the Midwest, and the increasing use of lockouts by bosses throughout the country.

On Nov. 18, workers at the Armstrong ceiling-tile plant in Pensacola, Fla., agreed to a new contract (the vote result has not been released). This comes after recent agreements at plants in Lancaster and Macon, Ga. Now, at these three plants, workers who are not yet 50 years of age or have less than 10-years seniority will lose retiree medical coverage and new hires will have 401(k) plans instead of pensions.

Armstrong World Industries, with 9,500 employees worldwide, reported record profits in the third quarter of 2011. These were, in part, due to write-offs from closing plants in Teesside, England; Holmsund, Sweden; and Beaver Falls, Pa.

Letters of support and contributions for the locked-out workers in Marietta can be sent to: USW Local 285/441, 3002 Hempland Rd., Lancaster, PA. 17601, or info285@uswa285.org

Correction

In the last paragraph of the article “Longshore Workers Prepare for Long Fight” in the Dec. 5 issue, EGT Development’s public information officer Matthew Beck was incorrectly identified as one of EGT’s owners.